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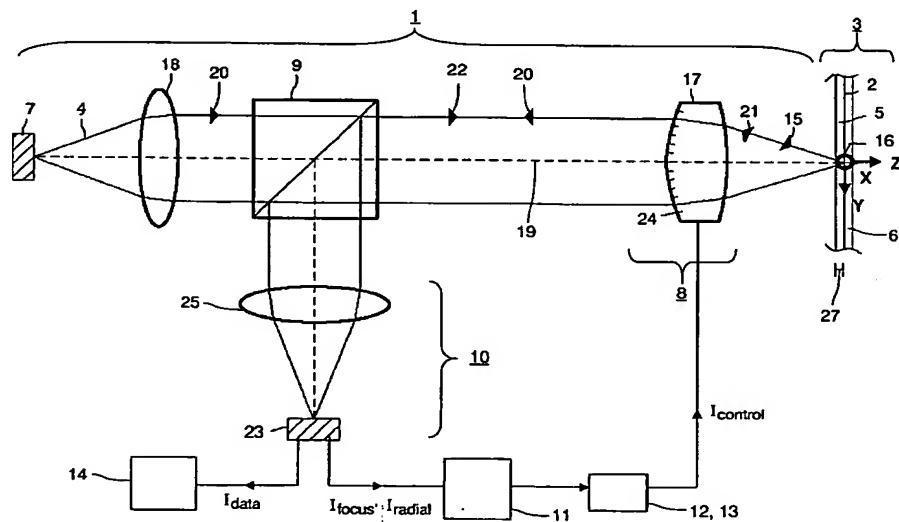
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(54) Title: OPTICAL SCANNING DEVICE



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(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device (1) for scanning three information layer (2, 2', 2'') with three respective radiation beams (4, 4', 4'') having three respective wavelengths (λ_1 , λ_2 , λ_3) and polarizations (p1, p2, p3). The three wavelengths differ from each other. At least one of the three polarizations differs from the others. The device comprises a diffractive part (24) including a pattern of pattern elements which have one stepped profile for forming three diffracted beams (15, 15', 15'') from the three radiation beams, the part comprising birefringent material, sensitive to the three polarizations. The stepped profile is designed such that the heights (h_j) of the steps of a pattern element introduce phase changes that equal at least two different multiples of 2π for one (λ_1) of the three wavelengths and equal at least two different phase changes modulo 2π for one (λ_2) of the two other wavelengths.

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL];

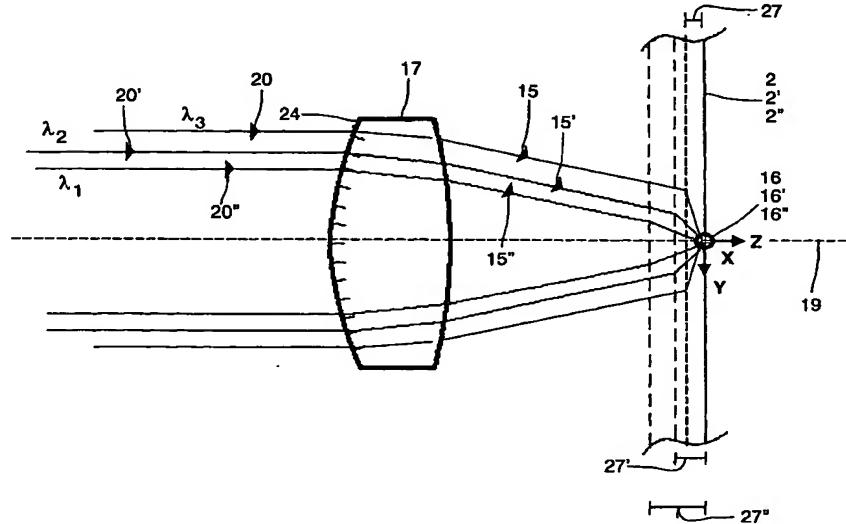
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 25, 12 April 2001 (2001-04-12) & JP 2001 209966 A (PIONEER ELECTRONIC CORP), 3 August 2001 (2001-08-03) cited in the application abstract ---	1,15
A	US 5 526 338 A (HASMAN EREZ ET AL) 11 June 1996 (1996-06-11) abstract ---	1,15
P,A	WO 02 21522 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14) the whole document ---	1,15 -/-

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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E	WO 03 060892 A (DE VRIES JORRIT E ;HENDRIKS BERNARDUS H W (NL); KONINKL PHILIPS EL) 24 July 2003 (2003-07-24) the whole document	1,15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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